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## **Poland**

### **Organic Products**

### **Organic Farming in Poland**

**2001**

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#### **Report Highlights:**

**Polish Parliament passed the Organic Farming Act in March 2001. This Act deals with regulations on this up and coming sector of Polish Agriculture. The rate of subsidies for organic farming makes this an attractive option for many Polish farmers.**

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Includes PSD changes: No  
Includes Trade Matrix: No  
Unscheduled Report  
Warsaw [PL1], PL

The Polish Parliament approved a legislation on organic farming on March 16, 2001, requiring all organic products to obtain a certificate of compliance for production and trade within Poland. According to this legislation, which goes into effect at the beginning of October 2001, imported products, including those which have been certified by EU institutions need to be re-certified in Poland. Once Poland enters the EU, products certified in the EU will no longer require re-certification in Poland.

To receive a certificate of compliance, the producer/importer must apply for an approval from one of the Polish certifying institutions by providing information regarding the activity related to the organic products, i.e. farming, trade, wholesale, retail. For imported products, this application should indicate the origin, the type and quantities of products to be imported, as well as information on facilities where the product was stored, repacked or processed. The producer/importer must maintain records of all documentation pertaining to types and quantities of imported organic products, as well as their storage, packing and transportation.

Once issued, the certificate of compliance will be valid for 12 months. According to the legislation, a product is classified as organic if at least 95 percent of its ingredients are produced by organic methods, or if 70 percent of its ingredients are produced by organic methods and the remaining 30 percent are allowed to be used in organic farming or processing. Imported products should be labeled as “organic” if they were produced by organic methods and are certified by an authorized Polish institution. The products from the EU must be labeled according to the attached list. The label should say “product of organic farming”, as well as contain information on the manufacturer, number of the certificate of compliance, name of the certifying institution and its ID number. In case of imported products, the name of the importer should also be mentioned on the label. If the product originated in the EU, the label must indicate that it is certified in the EU. Organic products must be stored separately from non-organic products.

The Polish Department of Agriculture estimates that there will be 10 thousand organic farms in Poland by the year 2009, occupying 0.5 percent of the agricultural land - a potential 10-fold increase from today. In 2001, farms can receive subsidies of 450 Zl (around \$108) for each 100 hectares of arable land, 150 Zl (\$38) for each hectare of pasture and meadow or 600zl (\$150) for each hectare of fruit and vegetable farm. Also, the cost of certification is partially subsidized by the government.

Considering the substantial potential for income in organic farming in Poland, the level of subsidies is very inducive for the farmers to make this switch. In fact, this is the only part of the agricultural sector that receives direct financial support from the government.

Certification System Signs for Organic Products in the EU:

- 1/ ES: Agricultura Ecológica - Sistema de control CEE
- 2/ DK: Ekologisk Jordbrug - EF Kontrolorning
- 3/ D: Ökologische Agrarwirtschaft - EWG-Kontrollsystem
- or
- Biologische Landwirtschaft - EWG-Kontrollsystem
- 4/ GR: biologi Gewria - Suthma Eegcou EOK
- 5/ EN: Organic Farming - EEC Control System
- 6/ F: Agriculture Biologique - Systeme de controle CEE
- 7/ I: Agricultura Biologica - Regime di controllo CEE
- 8/ NL: Biologische Landbouw - EEG-controlesysteem
- 9/ P: Agricultura Biologica - Systema de controllo CEE
- 10/ FI: Luonnonmukainen maataluostuotanto ETY:n valvontajarjestelma/Ekologiskt jordbruk EEG-kontrollsystem
- 11/ S: Ekologiskt jordbruk: EEG-kontrollsystem

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Previous reports on organic farming:

GAIN Report # PL9011 - Organic Farming in Poland 1999  
GAIN Report # PL9022 - Organic Farming in Poland - update 1999